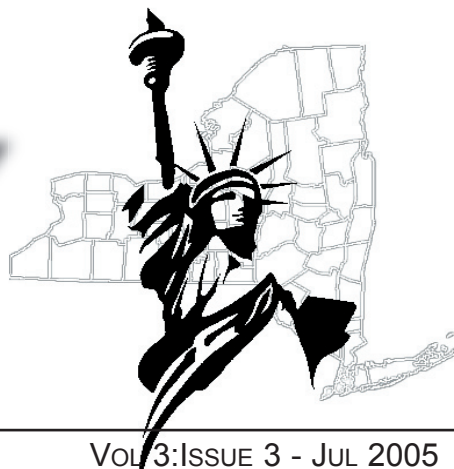


Free NY

WORKING TO ACHIEVE LIBERTY IN OUR LIFETIME



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

VOL 3:ISSUE 3 - JUL 2005

US SUPREME COURT ERASES NORTH AMERICAN STATE SOVEREIGNTY

On June 6, 2005, the US Supreme Court affirmed the invasion, coup d'etat and overthrow of 50 sovereign nations, by the United States of America, and in violation of all written treaties and prior compacts made with them.

This was a bigger dismantling of sovereignty en masse than the invasion of Iraq; it was a greater

coup than when Neville Chamberlain handed over the Czech Republic to Hitler in 1938, without armed

resistance, pronouncing peace in our time.

Although achieved far more slowly, in a final death knell to Constitutionally guaranteed independence, and in breach of the treaty entered into between the sovereign states of North America and the US federal Government, the Supreme Court, a branch of that same federal government, has finally acknowledged as moot - any pretense of the US federal government's respect of the states' legal sovereignty from the US federal government. The absolute right they once had to regulate activities in their own land, is gone.

On that date, the US Supreme Court demonstrated that there isn't any activity (interstate OR intrastate) immune from federal jurisdiction, even when that activity has no demonstrable connection to interstate

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FRIENDLY ADVICE FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL DIVIDE

Strategies on Campaigns & Campaigning, Ballot Status and the Common need of third parties to fragment the Big Two
Steve Greenfield, Secretary, New Paltz Green Party

I'm taking a big risk here in imagining that sending this won't get ooded with emails pertaining to the operations of a party to which I don't belong (but which I hold in high regard and share many of your principles), but it's a discussion where the LPNY does not yet have hands-on experience and where I as a NY Green do. This is the matter of that 50,000 votes and "ballot status." Individuals receiving this should feel free to re-post it, especially to your list-serves that I cannot post to directly.

I will also use the same subject to touch upon Donald Silberger's other message in which there was additional content about people getting some of your message, and party growth being promoted even when you don't get their votes. These matters are inter-related.

The first thing we need to recognize is that none of us ideologically-oriented "third party" types (as opposed to celebrity/billionaire-driven third party types like the Reform/Independence parties or major party stalking horses like the Working Families Party) are within any estimable time frame of winning significant direct races in which Democrats and Republicans are also running. Sad, but true. Of course the splintering of either major party, or both, which is not unimaginable, could speed the process along, but that's a different discussion entirely. So any discussion of ballot status and voter outreach has to be framed in this understanding: outside of very tiny races with very low turnouts, we're not winning any elective offices this week.

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THE LP FREEDOM PLAN

Three Steps You Can Take Now For Freedom, and a Call to Action to Rocket the Libertarian Party to Overwhelming Success

By Nic Leobold

Many Libertarian Party activists are justly frustrated by the failure of the LP to make significant progress since the 1970's.

In fact, at times our party has backtracked.

But it's important for us to remember that there's a tremendous amount we can do as individuals to speed the growth of our party.

Below are three steps for LP members to take each week and month and check off. These steps also apply to your state party and your membership in your local LP chapter.

Suffice it to say, if all LP members, or even a significant number, followed these steps, the LP would undoubtedly experience tremendous growth in power, influence, resources, and visibility.

But this giant potential starts with a single step by you. All LP progress starts with the contributions of individual members. The great thing is, each action you take builds on itself and generates momentum, which generates more momentum. A single person alone doing these steps can generate tremendous momentum within the party.

I know this from my own experience working in the Manhattan Libertarian Party. When members of our party step forward and con-

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Free NY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE MASS EXODUS OF REPUBLICANS?

Dear Editor:

The last issue of FREE NEW YORK contained an excellent article by Chuck Muth under the title "The Republican Party, Is It Poised for a Mass Exodus?"

Clearly, it was the best part of that issue and the best thing I have seen in a long time. I don't know quite why the you gave it this title because it doesn't really fit the theme of the article. (See Muth's website www.citizenoutreach.com under Muth's Truths for the original speech and title) If Muth is correct, there is an opportunity for the Libertarian Party to make a difference for our country.

Muth sees the strategic opportunity as Republicans who are disappointed by the failure of Bush and the GOP Congress to downsize government now that they control both the White House and Capitol Hill. I agree, but he ignores the role of independents.

He thinks that social issues will not attract many to our banner; with hardcore liberals/socialists he is correct. For a public employee unionist, anti-gun, who has a politically correct outlook on speech and wants more taxation, it isn't going to matter for many if he or she smokes marijuana.

Libertarians oppose the war on drugs on principle and on the failure of policy, not for personal advantage. Independents who aren't wedded to big government may well be brought in by marijuana legalization.

Libertarians are only going to get people to join who already think big government is bad. We can't count on people who will make exceptions from their big government outlook.

But the really good issue Muth misses is the smoking ban issue. What I like about it is that I can identify who is hurt by it and reach them. And they have resources.

Muth seriously errs in thinking that Rudy Giuliani would be a good presidential candidate for the Libertarian Party. Like many, he confuses liberal and libertarian views on social issues. Giuliani doesn't simply oppose persecuting homosexuals, he also supports anti-discrimination laws. Giuliani supports gun control and is an avid advocate of the drug war. He doesn't just support legal abortion but favors government-funded abortion. His platform crosses from libertarian goals to government enforcement of them.

I think a good presidential campaign would put the LP on the map. That in itself would attract people.

As former NYLP state chair, I read my volunteer, candidate and member inquiries. Not once did I read that someone was interested in the LP because somebody ran for village trustee or city council, but I saw interest many times when the LP ran a presidential or Mayoral race, such as Kramer for Mayor.

Muth was especially on the mark about us not whining about the media in public. I think we should stop whining about the media in private as well.

I think we probably get more attention than we deserve, relative to our importance in the scheme of things. (I plan to write something up for you all on media relations.)

As for LPNY, New York might be hopeless electorally; the principal role of the LPNY could be influencing the large academic, media and entertainment communities and industries based here, with the secondary role of raising money for the national party. The

relatively liberal NY GOP means that it might be possible to eke out victories with over a third of the vote. I can see doing these things.

One thing that LPNY needs to do is to stop nominating candidates who do not have their act together. We have nominated both local and statewide candidates with no campaign manager, no campaign treasurer, no bank account and no committee organized and registered. They do everything too late.

Many candidates seem view raising money and buying advertising as unnecessary and unimportant. Some have even told me so. They couldn't be more wrong.

Repeatedly, LPNY candidates start too late - you cannot try to put together a campaign in September for a November election. That is not the time to try to get publicity, but the time to advertise heavily and capitalize on publicity established earlier in the campaign. Ideally, one should be starting at least a year in advance, though not necessarily publicly. Nobody should be walking into a convention seeking a nomination who isn't already organized. The LPNY has doled out money to candidates who don't even have a bank account for their campaign!

Can the Libertarian Party be a viable force? Yes. but will it?

Past performance is no indicator of future performance, but it is the best we have. It is up to us to either change the LP or replace it with something more effective.

Yours for freedom,

Richard Coope
Nassau County

(PS: The best candidate the LP could have run for president in 2004 was Rep. Ron Paul. His opposition to the Iraq war and military service would have given him a lot of credibility. Maybe 2008?)

KUDOS TO JOHN CLIFTON, AND THE GOOD FIGHT

Dear Free NY:

I just wanted to say I enjoyed the article by John Clifton, especially the part about his dealing with the IRS, and all the things he is doing to answer their charges.

It seems to me that he has it a good response to everything they are trying to maneuver him into, and a good understanding of what it all means. I would be petrified like a deer in headlights if I had to fight them like that.

The way he explains everything he is doing, it makes perfect sense, when whittled down to what they are supposed to do, part by part, they don't seem so impossible to answer for what they are demanding. I hope I never have to go through anything like that, but if I do I will be sure call Mr. Clifton and his friends. I really hate the IRS and the way it seems like it is all over once they set their sights upon you. But this article gives me a little more hope and a lot more courage than I had before.

Lucy Sherman
Hudson Valley

Friendly Advice. Cont'd from Page 1

About the 50,000 gubernatorial vote thing, just for New Yorkers: Endorsing a Democrat is ridiculous, as would be endorsing a Republican. No Democrat is going to run as a Libertarian against a candidate from his or her own party, so what you really must be talking about is petitioning for a popular Democrat who is running as a Democrat to also have the Libertarian line (like the Working Families Party does). Right now you're talking about Spitzer, and I don't see him delivering much of a Libertarian message. I also don't see 49,433 pro-Democrat voters (assuming all 567 Libertarians currently enrolled all turn out to vote for a liberal Democrat, which hardly seems likely, especially since they've always had that option without being Libertarians) looking way over to the corner and finding the Libertarian switch instead of the three much larger columns where Spitzer's name will also appear, for no apparent reason (since it's the same candidate getting the votes) than to see the Libertarians get a ballot line.

If you just want a celebrity who can get 50,000 votes, there is no reason to get an establishment politician. You could get a Howard Stern or a Bill Mahar or any other public figure whose public perception is essentially libertine in nature, and that would get the job done in the immediate sense. The Greens did that in 1998 and we secured the ballot line. Aging borscht-belt comic and former "Grandpa Munster" Al Lewis (not hugely famous, but just enough) was able to reasonably articulate our platform based on his own genuine belief system. This is a better approach, and more likely to succeed in the short-term, but it too comes with some challenges you need to worry about in advance.

First of all, anyone can get a ballot line. The problem is keeping it. You could end up trapped in a cycle of celebrity dependency and with the focus on a persona rather than a party, never get your actual political message out at all, and then disappear as an entity when your celebrity endorsee either leaves you or you dump him. Or you could put up your own internally developed candidate 4 years later, feeling cocky about your new high profile, swiftly and easily lose your ballot line and in the process, and the interest of any celebrity you may try to pursue to regain it 4 years later. If you haven't spent the whole four years building your membership base (as the Greens in NY have done, growing from a membership of 3,000 at the time of Al Lewis's race to 29,000 at the time of Aronowitz's ballot loss four years later in 2002 to the 38,000 we have today that stands to regain the ballot next year) and running enough candidates in local races to develop a media profile as a party rather than a single celebrity, then you don't stand much chance of regaining the lost line in any meaningful time frame. It's an uphill battle all the way. The ballot line becomes an end unto itself independent of, and siphoning resources from, party organizing, message delivery, or direct issue advocacy. The ballot line pursuit could easily become your albatross. To some degree it is an albatross to the Green Party, but our membership base in NY is much larger than yours at the moment so it doesn't weigh as heavily around our necks as it might around yours.

LIP Freedom Plan Cont'd from Page 1

tribute their time, money and ideas, things begin to happen. Other people get excited, because they see progress. It's a basic fact of life. Imagine what could happen if all of us did this.

So think about the following suggestions, think about what you are doing now for the LP, and whether there's more that you can do, locally and nationally.

Contrary to what the cynics say, when our members decide to commit themselves to success, the potential of the LP is unlimited.

The LP Freedom Plan

1. Donate money each month to your local, state, and National LP.

I know it sounds obvious, but if you're involved in politics and you're not giving money to your party, you're being unrealistic. Politics takes money. Period. If the 22,000 national LP members contributed \$25 each month to LP National, and contributed the recommended \$17.76 each to both their state and local chapters every month, the Libertarian Party movement across the country would receive about \$1.3 million dollars per month, or \$16 million dollars per year, just for starters. Does that figure get you excited? Can you spell, MAJOR PARTY? That's what the

About the other part, what use is a candidacy that can't be won: There are a few uses. One is it is a great tool to recruit new members. The candidate is out front, articulating the message. Party volunteers, pamphlets and membership/registration forms are available at every event. Newspapers keep printing the name "Libertarian Party" and even people who haven't been paying attention ultimately see the party name inside the ballot booth. Another is more subtle, pertaining to the issues themselves. If you find a Republican who is locked in a close race with a Democrat, and he takes the party-line in chasing the religious vote at the expense of the US Constitution, he may lose the race by doing so. The fear of a gadfly Libertarian defending Freedom potentially attracting more votes than the religious fanatics could promise to deliver could force the Republican to drop his anti-freedom positions. If there is no Libertarian (or Green) in the race, the Republican does not have to worry that opposing the Constitution will cost him votes, nor will there be anyone even publicizing his opposition to the Constitution. Even though the Libertarian candidate doesn't take office, Libertarian platform issues find their way to office in the person of the winner who adopted the Libertarian planks. It is because of this that I have come to conclude that ideologically-oriented minor parties such as Libertarians or Greens must eschew getting into bed with the duopoly if we are to set ourselves on a long-term growth schedule. And since we're not winning any major offices soon, a long-term growth schedule is all we have to work with, keep tilling that soil. I have seen over and over again that Greens want Green candidates, not "more liberal" Democrats or weak, centrist Greens that Democrats will cross-endorse. I have no doubt that most Libertarians feel the same way about the party they joined.

I'm not going to advise you not to pursue ballot status. Quite the contrary, as I'm helping my own party to pursue it. My advice is to not make any politically expedient choices that can only be made at the expense of your core message. Ballot lines generally make a lot of things a lot easier, but only in the short run if you have to sacrifice your principles to get it. That's exactly what the Democrats and Republicans who created the ballot-restriction laws want. We shouldn't give it to them. We should continue doing the best we can within the existing laws without compromising our beliefs, while building our party enrollments and struggling together to have the unfair laws struck down, as we did with the Brennan Center lawsuit, and opening debates to third parties.

Steve Greenfield

Ulster County Delegate to the New York Green Party State Committee

New York State Region 3 Delegate to the Green Party of the United States National Committee

Anti-Patriot Act Activist and proud recipient of Libertarian support in my 2003 race for County Legislature

LP could be, if our members consistently gave to their local and state chapters and LP National. And, like I said, if you want to be in politics, but you don't want to give money, you should find some other hobby to do. I know \$61 dollars a month may be a lot for your budget, but on the other hand, how much do you want liberty, and how much money are you losing right now because of tyranny and the nanny state?

Manhattan LP Freedom Pledge Program:

www.manhattanlp.org/join/FreedomPledgeForm.htm

LPNY Donate Page: ny.lp.org/donate/

LP National Liberty Pledge: www.lp.org/members/monthly.shtml

2. Attend your LP meetings and events regularly, and bring a friend.

Another obvious suggestion, I know. But nothing is more depressing and counterproductive to the success of the LP than empty meeting halls and members who don't participate. If you're really serious about success for the LP and freedom, you must attend your local meetings each month, and introduce friends and family to the party and attend special

events and conventions. If there's something you don't like about your local meeting, let your party Chair know and give him/her feedback and suggestions. It may be you can find a better location, better amenities, better food and drinks, or better organization for your meeting. But building the LP begins with you attending your local meetings and working to improve them. Once people start participating, things begin to happen.

3. Do the 2-Step

Are you serious about liberty? (I keep asking you that) Part of the price of liberty means you have to work and fight for it. There are three things can do each week to bolster your first two steps above. Each involves the number "2". Step A, devote 2 hours per week to contribute activism work to your local chapter or to work benefitting LP state or National. Now that Spring and Summer are here, I like to go outside near my house and hand out LP literature and flyers. But you can spend your two hours per week in any way that contributes to the party. Be creative and choose something you like to do, because if you like it you'll be more successful. Step B, write 2 letters per week to local or national TV, newspapers, or magazines, or to your representatives in your state

legislatures or Congress, or to the President, about Freedom issues you care about, and mention you're a member of the Libertarian Party. And Step C, in every envelope or package you mail, drop a couple of the World's Smallest Political Quiz and a couple of LP flyers inside. Also leave the WSPQ when you leave a tip, or to your cab driver, or your dry cleaner. Leave LP flyers at your local businesses (ask first). If we did these 2-Steps, the LP would receive 44,000 man-hours of work each month (worth more than \$500,000), LP members would generate 44,000 letters per month, and we would circulate tens of millions of pieces of LP literature and WSPQ cards per year.

Do these kind of numbers excite you? Do these steps sound like something you can do?

It seems amazing, doesn't it?

Well, it all starts with you. Are you willing to take these three steps? One thing I know for sure: If you take these steps, you will generate tremendous momentum that just might rub off on the people around you. If every LP member took these steps, the Libertarian Party would soon rival both the Democrats and Republicans in the halls of power, and then we will have finally triumphed for freedom in America

American State Sovereignty. Cont'd from Page 1

commerce, AND even where the activity was explicitly made an entitlement by law to the People, in those states' duly elected governments.

(Twelve sovereign American states have passed laws permitting marijuana use by patients with a doctor's approval: Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, New York and Arizona, with many others considering the same.)

The Supremes New Age Philosophy

The saga plays out specifically, in the recent case of Gonzales v. Raich, where the Supreme Court ruled that marijuana that is [1] Grown within state boundaries, [2] Not destined for, conspired across, nor actually crossed state lines, and [3] consumed within that same state by the same grower, somehow, in some way was in fact interstate commerce.

This reaching, facially incredible conclusion, no matter how ridiculous or contradictory to observable reality, was needed as the legal placeholder required for the court to consequently justify a logical conclusion that the federal government could regulate such an activity, and yet still not admit it to be a violation of the US Constitution.

The sheer sophistry is evident even to a child who might otherwise report observing a naked emperor. Such obfuscation is transparent - the Supreme Court could find the earth to be flat, but that hardly makes it true.

The Constitution is violated even so, when the legal logic is impeccable, but the analyzed 'facts' do not describe the reality. In science this is known as the GIGO principle (garbage in garbage out). Furthermore, there is here at least a conflict of interest, the US Supreme court, a party to the controversy at hand, rules on the issue in its own favor.

Apparently finding fact more palatable to wangle than law, the court chose to misrepresent the scope of what constitutes interstate commerce, when no commercial activity was occurring, and the activity occurred wholly within the state. It takes a stretch beyond all realistic bounds to assert a connection between such a local

act of agriculture/consumption and the universe at large. Deepak Chopra would be proud.

The uninitiated may say to this article, "Why get so worked up over a decision on marijuana? What's with the alarming headline? It is already illegal, so what's the big whoop? America is still the same as it was, I don't see any federal troops invading our states".

In answer, - yes it was marijuana, and yes this case apparently only concerns marijuana, but being the institution of final authority in America, the now legally enforceable implication is that what goes for marijuana under these constraints, now goes for ANY other material (or thought or process, or act) under the same constraints.

By this obfuscation, the court knowingly eviscerated any checks or balance the Constitution places on federal intrusion into (formally) sovereign state activities. The servant has become the master, as the states have now been relegated to mere colonies of the US Government, much as Hong Kong was recently ceded back to the Chinese government's oversight and control.

It affirms what many had feared was going down: Whereas for years the federal government has been just shoving itself wherever it wants ad hoc, but with questionable legitimacy - Now very same federal government has bestowed upon itself the rightful authority to do these things legally. This is exactly what the founding fathers had feared.

They Know What They Do

The Court Justices in this case, were quite aware of these constitutional transgressions, and demonstrated that the implications of such were not simply lost on clueless administrators.

Opinion dissenter Clarence Thomas, a statist by reputation, actually championed the framer's intent in this case and said it like it is:

"Respondents Diane Monson and Angel Raich use marijuana that has never been bought or sold, that has never crossed state lines, and that has had no demonstrable effect on the

AN OVERVIEW FROM THE NYLP CHAIR,**JOHN CLIFTON:****MID-YEAR IDEAS, LOTSA UPDATES**

My apologies for a few typos and broken sentences ("There is a tremendous sense of...") in my article last issue. That line (for those interested) was supposed to end in "...freedom to be gained from personally decoupling oneself from the Matrix, that makes up for its inconveniences." Then there's the belated timing--my discussion of the IRS issue was supposed to coincide with tax season, and was meant to be a timely disclosure of my personal circumstances to the membership, prior to being renominated as Chair. My expectation is that henceforth, future issues will be more closely edited, and out much sooner to the time they were scheduled to be mailed. And I am proud to have been reupped to head the LPNY state committee for one more year.

Now, for today's subject:

Fresh Ideas: Conventions and conferences are a great time for sharing old recollections and mining for brainstorm between activists. I experienced both events recently (the January state chairs conference in St. Louis, and the LPNY con in April), and came away rejuvenated with loads of goodies, such as:

1) Office Space Rent Donors---One of the considerations behind the LP choosing Portland to host our 2006 National convention was to showcase the elegant physical office LP-Oregon has established in the downtown area. I asked Oregon Chair Adam Mayer (who used to be a LPNY member, and a co-founder of the Queens chapter) how it was possible to pay thousands a month in rent and utilities for a downtown space, and he responded with "rent donors." Oregon found at least 12 better-heeled members to donate the equivalent of one month's payment per year to support the state LP's physical office. Officers, volunteers and interns operate the premises, which serves a variety of purposes (central place to hold records, supplies, receive mail, hold meetings, prepare for political functions, host training, and on and on).

Perhaps the greatest asset of a physical space is the credibility it gives to the party to the average person ("well, at least they can afford and staff an office, instead of sharing a table at Denny's"). What says the membership here, about doing the same. If one New Yorker can transfer to a less populated state, yet find 12 people to pay for a space, why not us? Maybe NYC is out as candidate, or maybe not (a storefront-sized space would work); surely, a suitable site could be found in Albany. If more donors come forward, it might be possible to have 2 or more physical locations financed on this basis. If you're able to afford a single donation of \$2000 a year to LPNY earmarked for this purpose, PLEASE contact myself or Treasurer Werner Hetzner immediately.

2) New Political Blood---I would like to thank Gary Denoyan for the shot of adrenaline and thoughtful energy he brought to the position of Political Director for LPNY. From county start-ups, to finding new candidates, to reassessing LPNY email lists, Gary delivered. He has, unfortunately, decided to step down from that position, but continues to provide input as an at-large

member of StateCom. Who will step up to likewise pump up the volume of party development Gary has started? I noticed some preliminary prospects

among the insightful speakers who attended the con, including the insightful Warren Redlich of Repeal.net (who wowed the attendees with a presentation on running a youth-directed gubernatorial campaign in '06), Jim Ostrowski of the Free Buffalo Project, and Robert Butler of Libertyworks (who proposed the state party focus on running races in 'exurbia' or rural areas, the only kind of districts Libertarians seem to win). Between one of these fine folks or comparable I speculate we may soon have a new Director--"one younger, and more powerful."

3) Institutional Memory---There was some idle convention banter about how to further archive and retain LPNY's storied history over three decades. Anyone who has put in even months of time with activist efforts has encountered a blizzard of personalities, strategies and other info. There are concepts we are trying now that may have already been done more successfully in the past, but who remembers so-and-so from '86 who did it better, or worse? I suggested one solution: have veteran members compose an anthology, outlining a full history of LPNY from the '70's until now. Imagine, a summary of '70's activism written by Bob Flanzer Vicki Kirkland or Siggie Kress, an overview of the '80's by Bill McMillen and/or Bob Goodman, etc. The point would not be to get massive sales, but to provide a permanent resource for historical minded folks about the party's activity, before all the memories are gone. I will be asking the 'oldtimers' to put together their thoughts and recollections on paper, to put the tome together over the next year.

Free New York/StateCom: I have been a bit lax in helping to get the July issue's deadlines enforced (I thought it was June 15, but Gary apparently wants submissions in faster if possible). Everybody who wants the issue out on time should get their submissions into him, so an issue can be in people's hands by July 12 (the start of the NYC petition drive; hopefully our draft form will be finalized within the next week). I had thought about completing a press release on 'terrorism and the economy' and get it into the issue but now think it is more appropriate to do closer to September (9/11 anniversary). Agenda items for upcoming committee meetings include the normal officer and function reports, Political Director discussion, a convention wrap-up/next convention update, Free NY and Libertyworks update, consideration of local candidate support (LPNY donations to campaigns) and new business. I will be contacting the western LP members where needed to help ensure their attendance.

POT Projects: At Thomas Ruks' and Bonnie Scott's suggestion, LPNY has started to hold additional phone or physical get-togethers for state committee members, TCCs (temporary county chairs), functional officers and coordinators for planning purposes. Such "POT" meetings (planning but optional teleconferences) are designed to be informal or less formal, and not require attendance of the state committee members (NO votes taken, no quorum needed) and so would mostly not interfere with people's personal schedules. It seems that the first LPNY planning (but

optional) meeting on May 22 went off well, largely because of good attendance, and a lack of pressure to "resolve" things with motions and votes. These meetings can continue by teleconference only each month or oscillate between calls and meet-ups (I hope to set up a July meeting in NYC with Robert Butler). Among the main things to come out of it was a short term push to contact inquiries who once expressed an interest to be candidates (while there's time to get them started), an attempt to further pursue a Green-LP partnership on some projects, and following up with

Butler (so we can be ready to finally move on the administrative outsourcing).

Additional ongoing issues, like completing fundraising letters could be worked out from using this kind of setting. If we end up not agreeing on using Libertyworks for that, I still like the idea of using a specialized source for the letters, like Pagesmith.com. >From March '04: Pagesmith, a Libertarian fundraising writing group out of Nebraska, has mailed me and other state chairs a marketing letter advertising their services. Jack Graziano, a past candidate and Communications Director for LP-NE, heads it and claims a consistent 4% response rate from his mailings, "all them successful." Their process is one of 'we'll write your appeal, and you'll send it out,' and described their means of payment in the form of "you send us 20% of what you get. We supply the genius--you supply the paper, postage and ink."

Legislative Follow-up: One purpose behind my citing a recent article on medical marijuana on the committee list, was to provide the committee with background data on what others have done to build momentum or support for favorable bills. LPNY is not just limited to doing press releases, or talking to the same old 'our guy' in the local drug group; we need to work with folks outside our box. The bills in play in CT, NY at least, have gotten to the point they're at now by somebody building coalitions with nursing and medical groups, finding a high-profile person to endorse the legislation, reaching a senior elected official who's willing to sponsor or shepherd it, etc. This quest for institutional support should be part of the mandate of our Legislative Director, or of a committee he or she heads. Contacting the equivalent person in Real Reform, Drug Policy Alliance, NORML to start to get the connections to the same bodies--i.e., networking with drug groups is a LAUNCHING pad, not the limits of what could be done. Similarly, instead of asking nearby celebrities in our party about running for office, why not approach them about endorsing or opposing bills we've taken a stand on? Would Jim Rogers let us put his face in an ad about state fiscal policy, or Nelson DeMille, or Dennis Miller, etc.? Food for thought, and action.

Functional Projections: Now would also be an excellent time (during the next two state committee meetings) for officers and functional appointees to present 12 month projections for how to grow the party. As I wrote last year, part 1 was to sort out the functional schema in the first place: "The next stage is target-setting. In addition to providing periodic summary reports on current progress made within their category, each person with a designated function should offer an annual projection as to what could be realistically accomplished over 12 months, and propose how to get there. If turned down, either an alternative gets accepted, or the projection itself gets suspended until a solution is found. In this fashion LPNY could more objectively determine how to proceed,

and know exactly where it is regarding progress, and exactly what or why it is being held up. Essential functions require a 'get it done' mindset. The way to think about it is to compare any function, to our standard project of doing the ballot petitioning drive."

Karlan Update: Our Regional Representative recently submitted (post LNC meeting) the following message to regional state chairs:

The LNC has decided to compose an explicit agreement with affiliates, incorporating membership, responsibilities, and other

facets of the affiliate relationship. While some important issues are to be covered in that agreement -- including provision of information to the affiliates by National, responsibilities of the affiliates, Regional Representative issues, and other items, the most important item being considered is membership.

There are two distinct directions being considered. First is elimination of (national) dues. The other is elimination of UMP (both flavors).

This is a formal solicitation from you on your (and your affiliate leadership's) response to these possibilities. To the extent you have specifics, those would be valuable. And time is a consideration. The LNC apparently wants the form of the agreement to be largely in place by the August meeting (which I might or might not be able to attend).

Finally: at the last meeting, the LNC adopted a policy to deal with Sexual Harassment and Offensive Behavior. This policy deals mostly with LNC and staff matters, but two provisions relate more specifically to affiliates.

First, violation of the policy is specifically stated as grounds for removal from the LNC -- but the Bylaws explicitly protect Regional Representatives from removal by the LNC, reserving that authority to the region (Chairs or members). I support a Bylaws change allowing the LNC to remove a Regional Representative for violation of the Harassment policy, and I expect this amendment to the Bylaws to be brought to the delegates to the 2006 Convention. I encourage you to circulate among your members this possibility.

Second, due to the intimate nature of the affiliate arrangement, especially within the LP, legal features of the Harassment policy require that it be extended to the affiliates. But doing so by fiat of the LNC is a violation of the Bylaws. The policy, however, does provide for its extension to any affiliate entering into a new agreement with the LNC, and the agreement being composed will include such a provision. If you have any questions on the policy itself, or how it might be extended to the affiliates, please contact me. I was the principal author of the policy, with much addition from the Legal Counsel.

Dan Karlan, email: dankarlan@earthlink.net

Peace & Freedom, John

LIBERTARIAN RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS,**PAST AND PRESENT:****LIBERTARIAN PARTY CONDEMNS THE SUPREME COURT DECISION AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA(WASHINGTON, D.C.**

June 6, 2005:

National Libertarian Party:

Washington DC: In a 6-3 ruling by the United States Supreme Court, the federal government will continue to arrest and prosecute sick and terminally ill Americans who use marijuana for medical purposes. The decision supersedes state laws and the votes of citizens that allow the medical use of marijuana.

While the people of California and other states voted for the right of sick and dying patients to use marijuana as a medical treatment, the Supreme Court's ruling permits the federal government to ignore the recorded decisions of an electorate.

Currently, ten states allow residents to grow and use marijuana for medical purposes. The court ruling, which was pushed forward by the Bush administration, not only lacks compassion for the sick but is also a clear encroachment upon states' rights.

Libertarian Party Executive Director Joe Seehusen stated, "This ruling is not only a blow to the elderly, sick and terminally ill, but also represents the further decline of states' rights." Mr. Seehusen continued, "It is important that the American public does not minimize this issue by believing that it only affects 'pot smokers' as it is a much deeper debate involving the intrusion of the federal government upon the states, the power of the prescription drug lobby, and the growing limits on individual freedom."

The Libertarian Party is a long-standing advocate for individual liberty and believes that Americans should be responsible for their own actions and, in this case, be able to use alternative forms of medication outside of the realm of insurance companies and the pharmaceutical lobby.

Working with like-minded groups, the Libertarian Party will help craft federal legislation that will assist individuals needing medical marijuana to pursue treatment methods without fear of arrest and prosecution by the federal government.

SUPREME COURT RULES AMERICAN HOMES CAN NOW BE SEIZED FOR PRIVATE USE

Jun 23, 2005

(Washington, D.C.) The Supreme Court ruled today that local governments have broad power to confiscate private property in the name of "economic development."

They handed down a 5-4 ruling against a group of homeowners in New London, Conn., who claimed the city is trying to illegally force them to sell their property. The city wants to make way for a hotel, an office building and other privately funded facilities.

Government agencies including city and county governments have long been allowed to condemn private property so that public buildings, roads and other infrastructure can be built. Called "eminent domain," this practice is constitutional as long as the power is exercised strictly in accordance with the Fifth Amendment's "takings clause." However, the new

ruling will allow local governments to claim property for the benefit for private entities, rather than restricting eminent domain to acquiring land for public use.

"This ruling sets a frightening precedent that will affect poor and middle class families across the nation," said Michael Dixon, national chairman of the Libertarian Party. "Dazzled by the possibility of increasing tax revenue and employment opportunities, local government officials will now be able to claim entire communities for the benefit of private corporations."

While the Libertarian Party supports the right of corporations to do business, "we even more strongly support the constitutional rights of the individual," Dixon declared. "And those constitutional rights are being trampled on by local governments around the country."

Because the Supreme Court's decision gives government agencies much broader power to confiscate private property, the Libertarian Party calls on both state legislatures and Congress to stand up for the rights of private landowners.

"This country was founded on the principle that people have the right to protect their lives, their lands and their liberty," Dixon said. "It is the sworn duty of elected officials to stand up for the individual rights of their constituents. Now is the time for them to do so."

LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

Hard on the heels of the first full year of membership growth for the Libertarian Party in several years, the first quarter of 2005 saw continued growth -- and March provided the largest monthly increase in membership in nine months.

"Membership increased by 466 in March, and we have had 2.4 percent growth in membership between the end of 2004 (22,177) and the end of March, when it had grown to 22,706," said Jessica Neno Wilson, development coordinator for the national LP. "We had 337 new members sign up in March and 1,528 Libertarian Party members renewed their memberships," she said.

The Libertarian Party's membership growth in 2004 ended a four-year-long slump. Membership at the end of 2003 was 21,043, a number that grew to 22,177 by the end of 2004 -- more than 5 percent growth.

And in the past 12 months (from March 31, 2004, to March 31, 2005) the party grew by 1,474 members and subscribers -- almost 7 percent growth. "The new members who signed up were a result of the recent prospecting we've done."

Membership growth is a result of so many different variables -- and what the numbers are telling us is that over the past year we have done different things right at different times.

"This growth is a function of solid customer service leading to member retention, good outreach, and seamless communication between the state parties and the national office. Sometimes we are better at some aspects than others; now we need to focus on getting it all right at the same time."

We need to take a multi-faceted approach, not focusing on one thing at the expense of others."

COMEDY CENTRAL'S "THE DAILY SHOW" FEATURES NEW SEGMENT ON THE NY LIBERTARIAN PARTY.

June 7, 11pm: The Daily Show with Jon Stewart", aired a revisiting of the Libertarian Party. Most have seen the infamous Guns for Tots segment that "The Daily Show" originally aired two years ago, and repeats frequently.

This segment was an update discussing Manhattan LP Chair Jim Lesczynski 's campaign for Public Advocate, the smoking ban, toy guns, and his brand of guerrilla activism.

IDAHO LIBERTARIAN PARTY FOUNDER COMMITS SUICIDE

For decades, Larry Fullmer, also known as "Libertarian Larry" made waves writing controversial letters to the editor on topics such as politics, war and evolution. Neighbors and co-workers at his job at Heinz Frozen Foods, knew the other Larry Fullmer - the pleasant but solitary man in his early 60s. Larry Fullmer had founded the Idaho Libertarian Party in 1976.

"I don't think I've ever seen anybody say more than a couple of words to him," said coworker Dave Millward, whose mother Judy sold Fullmer his home.

On Sunday morning, May 22, 2005 he e-mailed his sister that he was despondent and thinking of taking his own life. The second was a typed letter with a similar message, which he left in a neighbor's mailbox later that afternoon.

Based on those communications, at 9 a.m. Pocatello police officers went to Fullmer's small, yellow home to perform a welfare check.

The Officers entered his home to find Fullmer inside, in his hallway, brandishing a firearm. They backed away, and Fullmer ducked into another room.

Upon hearing gunshots, the Pocatello's response team evacuated neighbors in the immediate vicinity. Fullmer had no telephone and efforts to reach him by e-mail failed. The team's trained negotiator addressed him with a megaphone.

"Larry, Larry, we need to talk to you. Larry, we want to make sure you're all right. Larry this is the Pocatello Police Department. We are here to help you. We will not hurt you."

When no answered ensued, officers subsequently fired 5 rounds of gas inside Fullmer's home. After the stand-off went on for some time, the police entered the building, to find Fullmer dead from two self-inflicted gunshots. An emergency medical technician at the scene could find no vital signs, his body was cold to the touch and surrounded by blood. Fullmer had been dead for several hours.

(Larry's last email, May 10, is Available online at: briefcase.yahoo.com/garyonthenet)

NASSAU LP ADOPTS NEW BYLAWS, AND ELECTS NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS:

At the Long Island Libertarian Convention held June 18, 2005, the following officers were elected

Chair: Gary Donoyan
Vice Chair: Beads Land
Secretary: Andy MacAskill
Treasurer: William Stocker

Also endorsed were the following candidates for public office:

Nassau County Executive: Gary Donoyan
Nassau County Clerk: Beads Land

After the convention, Beads Land was asked to be the Nassau LP representative to the state committee, and he accepted. The appointment was made pursuant to the new bylaws of the chapter.

Beads attended the February 2005 meeting of the Nassau LP; his analysis and insight about libertarianism and politics in general were recognized as all the more impressive since he was unaware of the LP until shortly before finding out about it (through meetup.com), and attending the NLP meetings. It is expected if given the opportunity, he will be a useful contributor to the state committee.

OTHER NEW YORK STATE LP OFFICERS' CHANGES

Gary Donoyan resigned as the NYLP's Political Director, citing irreconcilable differences in the Web administration methodology. Gary Donoyan, as aforementioned, also was recently elected Nassau County LP Chapter Chair, and was elected an At-Large Member of the NYLP State Committee at the NYLP State Convention.

Gary Treistman, was elected as the Hudson Valley LP Chapter representative to the NYLP State Committee.

LPNY VICE-CHAIR BONNIE SCOTT APPLAUDS SCHOOL BOARD CAMPAIGN OF RICHARD PITTS

A big "Thank You!" to Libertarian Richard Pitts of Mooers Forks, who ran for school board this Spring.

Richard is the father of a second grader in the school district, as well as a two-year old. He's a veteran, having fought in the first Gulf War under the first President Bush.

We started talking about how he came to be a Libertarian. Richard explained that he had been Republican since age 17. He didn't vote for a person, he voted for a party...until G.W. got elected. He loved Reagan, but he says that the Republicans just aren't the Republican Party any more. Now, they just tell you what you want to hear.

So, his attitude towards politics changed 180 degrees--he started getting involved. He ran for school board. He says you can't complain if you don't vote or don't run. He always recommends that people run. He lost by 60 votes, coming in third, but he's planning on running again.

He says he should have done more. (You can always say that, unless you win.) He ran a mainly word-of-mouth campaign; he knows a lot of people in town. His daughter created a flyer on the computer and passed it out to teachers at school. He also put the flyer up on bulletin boards at neighborhood stores, and so on. Way to go, Richard

Bonnie Scott

PETITION SIGNATURE GATHERING RULES, METHODS, TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

In preparation for the election ballot LPNY's 2005 petitioning season drive this year, **starting on July 12**, the **filing deadline being August 23**; don't wait to file your petitions early as unforeseen things always pop up. Please read the following and take into consideration these rules and suggestions; the goal is quantity of signatures, rate of signature gathering, and the quality of signatures received.

What to bring:

- Two or more clipboards with large rubberbands to hold the petitions and pens in.
- It is recommended that lightweight foamboard be used instead of clipboards if you can find them.
- Literature about the party and the candidates. (see below)
- These signature gathering Instructions
- Some friends to help out with the petitioning, and to keep each other energized, empathized.
- Liberal amounts of coffee available, but be careful not to spill on any forms, or people.

Ground Rules for Petitioning:

- Instruct the person signing not to use a titles such as Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.
- Instruct the person signing to give his/her street address only, no P.O. Box addresses.
- Be careful about dates and signatures:
- Do not alter a signature. If the signer must alter or move his/her signature, he/she must initial the change. If you change a date, you must initial the change. You need not initial changes to addresses or town data. You do not have to be a member of the LPNY to collect or witness signatures.
- Never argue with or try to convert anyone when working to get his/her signature. Smile, be friendly, and get his/her signature. Remember the 20 second rule: if a person doesn't agree to sign within 20 seconds, move on to someone else! Don't sacrifice the many for the few.
- Always check that a signature, name and address are legible before the person leaves.
- Carefully fill out the witness statement at the bottom. Any errors or omissions will invalidate the entire sheet. If your post office address is in a different town than your residence, or if you have a P.O. Box, you must put down both addresses!
- Do not fill in the Sheet Number. We will add that when collating the sheets.
- If you have signed another independent nominating petition, you cannot sign or witness signatures!
- You can't witness your own signature. Have a friend witness your signature on a separate sheet. Always check that a signature, name and address are legible before the person leaves.
- Carry the signature sheets with you during your daily activities, you never know when you might have an opportunity to collect a signature or two! Make as many copies of the blank petitions as you feel you need. Always save one blank one in case you need to photocopy more.
- DO NOT photocopy these instructions onto the back of your petition sheets. You must be registered to vote in New York State to collect/witness signatures.

Good lines to use when asking for signatures:

Use a non-threatening opener like "Excuse me, are you registered to vote in New York?" (That also filters out unqualified people.)

"Anybody should have the opportunity to be on the ballot, don't you agree?"

"Sign on the dotted line."

Sometimes, just saying "Would you sign my petition", will be enough and they grab the pen. Only say enough to get them to sign the petition.

Signature Gathering Methods, Tips & Suggestions

If they seem reluctant, tell them that "Signing the petition doesn't mean you have to vote for the Libertarian Party, and you are not voting now -- it just gives Libertarian candidates an equal chance to be on the ballot and run for office, so that people can have a choice to vote for who they want."

Another great line to try: "We need 15,000 signatures to get our candidate on the ballot, but we only need one from you."

years ago, to end the income tax and make the Federal government *much* smaller (and less intrusive).

If they do ask about the party, be ready to whip out a postcard-sized version of "The World's Smallest Political Quiz", and also write our 800 number: 1-800-ELECT-US. Prepare to have a few universally appealing one liners to describe libertarianism. (Often mentioned is Harry Browne's race for President, a few

HELP WANTED! **VOLUNTEER PETITION DRIVE COORDINATOR**

The New York Libertarian Party is looking for a Tireless Worker for the months of October - November) We need someone to manage and process incoming signature petitions in preparation to file with the BoE. We will train. This is a volunteer position, unfortunately no pay, but you will be able to put this experience on your resume for future enhanced employability! Albany area resident preferred (unless willing to drive long distances and leap over tall buildings) Since our experienced Petition Coordinator is retiring we need to replace him. How about you? Are you willing to accept the challenge and receive kudos and much gratitude? Help us promote change for liberty Please contact the Free NY Editor at email FreeNY@hvc.rr.com, or call 845-679-4770

After signing, if they're sympathetic (or not, sometimes), remind them to look for our emblem [pointing] and our candidate [mention the names] on the ballot.

If you can get the board or pen into the signer's hands, chances improve. When the crowd is responsive, you can get one per minute. Two clipboards -- no waiting, but watch both signers. You are after all, a witness.

Be Aware of Saboteurs:

"Don't let anyone 'sign for my friend/relative.' or any person other than themselves. Such people are likely major party agents, looking to create an election fraud case against you, and to invalidate all your signatures. Give him a blank sheet on which S/HE can witness their friend's signature and tell him to send it to Jeff Russell, see below. He's listed on the petition on the committee on vacancies."

Where to petition:

Try local parks, downtown in the largest city near you, and in Wal*Mart, supermarket, mall parking lots. (Ask permission, but they usually grant it if you stress that it is for ballot access. It helps to have voter registration forms, too.) Local festivals, fairs, and other outdoor events. It's a lot tougher in less populated areas, so it can be worth it to get a CD of the voter info for your county and go door-to-door, just targeting registered voters. The DMV's are a great option for finding a ton of registered voters in one place, not doing too much but waiting around!

Look for public places where there are a lot of people are hanging around. Malls and other private property may require permits before you can petition.

NYC metropolitan-area Libertarians:

Find crowds to ask for signatures in the subways, at Metro North stops, and LIRR stations. Metro-North Info If you're in the area, contact the Manhattan LP for a partner to work with, or just print out your own forms and pick a busy station near you. Focus on the 6AM to 9AM rush-hour crowd, and then come back for the 4PM to 7PM rush hour. If you can stay even longer, Grand Central and Penn Station should be prime locations for your effort.

Besides the train and subway stations, other good places to approach people for signatures are Jones Beach, outside of Yankee Stadium, and Central Park. The "Summer Stage" Concert Series in Central Park and around the Brooklyn Cyclones' Coney Island stadium are great when there are events and games. New York LED has a list of NYC Summer Street Fairs, which are other great opportunities to petition and find New York City voters.

As soon as possible, give all completed signature sheets to your local coordinator by Aug. 20th, The earlier, the better! And above all - Have fun.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

NYS LIBERTARIANS RUNNING FOR OFFICE THIS YEAR



Audrey Silk
NYC Mayor

AUDREY SILK FOR NYC
MAYOR '05

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not familiar with government process but I am a quick learner (as attested to in my bio) and I can promise that, if elected, I will apply my core principles of smaller and less intrusive government in reaching my decisions on everything.

The Issues

Smoking Ban

It is no secret to anyone who knows me that this is one of my top issues, considering that I am the founder of a NYC based smokers' rights group, NYC C.L.A.S.H. But I'm not so narrow as to see it as only a smoking issue. It is a tremendous symptom of a greater problem -- the nanny state. It's less about smoking and more about civil liberties and the protection of private property rights.

I would repeal the smoking ban. Private sector offices, bars and restaurants are not public places. They are private property that invites the public to enter. Unless it's taxpayer funded no one has the right to tell an owner what policies to set in his own place, and certainly not under force of law. If you or I don't like it we're free to leave or not enter at all. No one is ENTITLED to a particular job either. The "for the employees" argument doesn't fly either.

If banning or restricting smoking is as popular as the anti-smokers profess then no law is needed and the market will drive private business to do so without the need for force of law. Contrary to the reports produced by the very proponents of the ban to support their policy, it has had a negative economic effect on bars. Based on the latest release of figures by the NYS Dept. of Taxation bar business in the city fell by 3.05% in the year following the ban.

It's not a matter of "public health" either. I could write a tome here about the junk science manufactured to accuse secondary smoke of being a health risk in order to control the behavior of adults who choose to smoke but then this would go on forever. Instead I direct you to read The Case Against Smoking Bans and provide you with one of the hundreds of statements by health professionals who agree:

(See "Mayor Bloomberg Exaggerates Secondhand Smoke Risk", By Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, American Council on Science and Health, at: www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.215/news_detail.asp)

"Who exactly are these 1,000 New Yorkers whose deaths Mayor Bloomberg claims will be prevented by his legislation?

If, as we suspect, he is referring to deaths caused by exposure to secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars, the estimate of 1,000 deaths prevented is patently absurd... There is no evidence that any New Yorker -- patron or employee -- has ever died as a result of exposure to smoke in a bar or restaurant."

Smoking bans are the slippery slope toward further regulation of basic lifestyle choices. If you believe in the right to be left alone, private property rights and agree that employing junk science in public policy is unethical and irresponsible then you must agree that a government imposed smoking ban on private property is wrong.

Cigarette Taxes

If the product was anything other than cigarettes there would be a public outcry if any tax was increased by 1775% at one time as Mayor Bloomberg did when he raised the city tax from 8 cents a pack to \$1.50.

Two reasons -- both instantly at odds with each other -- were given for this increase: To raise revenue for the city while "encouraging" (read forcing) people to give it up. It's been amazing to me that intelligent people can process and accept that conflicting statement without question. Not only is it wrong to expect 25% of the population to have to support the budget that benefits everyone but you cannot raise revenue if sales go down.

Not that sales have gone down. In addition to smokers turning to the internet for cheaper cigarettes, Mayor Bloomberg created a new black market replete with violent turf wars where innocent bystanders also end up getting hurt or killed, crime that never would have existed and the subsequent waste of police resources to go after the outlaws he set up in business, all the while ruining the legitimate corner store businesses. But hey, that's the business savvy we expected from businessman Bloomberg, isn't it? I mean, the war on drugs has worked so well so why not start a new one?

I also do not accept the emotional argument about higher prices helping to keep cigarettes out of the hands of youth. Fundamentally, adult rights should never be suspended under the guise of "for the children." In practice, it is now easier for youngsters to get cigarettes because they have many more places to acquire them besides the corner store that enforced age verification.

Taxes

Remove the moral element from the cigarette tax and the property tax increase becomes equally outrageous. Home ownership is one of the greatest accomplishments for independence one can achieve. High property taxes should not be an obstacle the city throws in your way. It is an undue burden and I would repeal Bloomberg's and Council Speaker Miller's tax hike.

In the spirit of Libertarianism I would seek to reduce or eliminate all taxes as much as feasibly possible. There is no reason why others should be entitled to collect your hard earned dollar while they do nothing. Entitlement programs are in dire need of restructuring at the least to reduce expenditures, reduction or elimination at the most.

Education

For all the talk about the problems with education I rarely hear the blame placed on the proper responsible parties -- students and their parents. As long as a teacher is competent and can make a lesson interesting they cannot be blamed for the failures resulting from anti-social disruptions, general bad behavior or lack of educational discipline. Teachers should not have to be in the disciplinary business or act as surrogate parents as long as the student has a parent/guardian at home who should be demanding good behavior from their child. Only when abuse at home is involved should the educational system have to step in.

Pouring more and more money into this black hole is painfully obviously not the solution. Were it the solution we'd have none of the problems we have today. Billions of taxpayer dollars are disappearing into a system for an ideal that feels good but doesn't exist. Imagine the taxes that could be cut and/or redirected to other budgetary woes if someone would finally admit that money isn't the answer to fixing the school system.

I would analyze the entire schools budget, cut waste, reduce spending and return to the essentials of 30 years ago when education produced more success. By cutting all the feel good social school programs that fools everyone into believing the students are receiv-

MEET THE CANDIDATES

ing real long-lasting help, I'd redirect those dollars into a program that addresses the very heart of the problem -- parent and student accountability.

We'd also be saving money by eliminating the existing ineffective programs that could also go toward deserved teacher raises. One way to retain good teachers is to pay them a fair wage for their work.

Students that cannot be controlled by their parents and insist on continuing to be disruptive in the classroom would be placed in schools that will train them for jobs so that they can at least have skills to be a productive member of society. As long as they can read, write and do basic math there comes a point where it is no longer our responsibility to do more than give them a last chance at earning a living upon graduation while giving all the other students that were in school to aspire to bigger and better things the peace and proper environment to do so.

By virtue of its nature school is also where social skills are built. In the real world there are winners and losers. One must be prepared to be a gracious winner and a good loser. People DO keep score. We do a grave disservice to them by removing competitive sports, etc. from the schools. Curriculum currently in place that actively discourages individualism should be eliminated.

Health Care

There is an excess of waste, fraud and abuse in the health care system. A complete analysis from top to bottom is called for. Entitlement programs need to be reviewed under a microscope. For instance, Viagra should not be taxpayer funded. A shift from reliance on government to personal responsibility for individual health care needs will reduce the financial burden on the public dramatically.

Crime

I'm the first to laugh when the mayor proclaims how well HE has done in matters of policing. Please, the NYPD runs itself. The mayor, whoever that is, should take very little credit.

As far as the crime rate in NYC goes it has indeed dropped dramatically over the last decade. However, part of the high crime rate came at the height of the crack wars in the mid to late eighties. When the crack trade dissipated so too did the number of crimes. Yet, a good deal of the decrease can be credited to the birth of COMPSTAT (Crime Comparison Statistics) from the mind of the late Jack Maples and implemented under the Giuliani administration. Tracking crime more efficiently and holding precinct commanders more responsible was a good tactic... up to a point.

But let's face it -- crime will never be zero. Yet precinct commanders are expected to consistently show reduction in crime. If they do, then they win the favor of the higher brass and win choice assignments or promotion. If they don't, well then, their career is stuck in limbo indefinitely. There comes a point where you've reached saturation and there's no place left to go but back up. That hasn't happened. So you're left having to have to ask yourself if you really believe we'll reach zero crime or is there something murkier taking place.

When I read an article entitled "The Trouble with Compstat" written in the PBA Magazine I was seeing my own thoughts in print. So rather than reinvent the wheel let me quote:

It was a great idea that has been corrupted by human nature. The Compstat program that made NYPD commanders accountable for controlling crime has degenerated into a situation where the police leadership presses subordinates to keep numbers low by any means necessary. The department's middle managers will do anything to avoid being dragged onto the carpet at the weekly Compstat meetings. They are, by nature, ambitious people who lust for promotions, and rising crime rates won't help anybody's career.

The only problem is, [the program] didn't anticipate the "fudge factor." That's the characteristic that allows local commanders to make it look like crime has dropped when it has in fact increased.

...when you finally get a real handle on crime, you eventually hit a wall where you can't push it down any more. Compstat does not

recognize that wall so the commanders have to get "creative" to keep their numbers going down.

So how do you fake a crime decrease? It's pretty simple. Don't file reports, misclassify crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, under-value the property lost to crime so it's not a felony, and report a series of crimes as a single event.

So there you have it -- the misrepresentation of crime. If you're happy having your emotions stroked then fine, believe that you are safer. Actually we all are much safer than before but I'd rather not be lied to even if that means the perception of being a little less safe.

The public suffers in two respects. The first is being lied to. But the second is that so much pressure is placed on the commanding officer that it drives him to treat his officers in a manner that affects their morale. The less happy an officer is in their job the more it affects how well they interact with the public.

Not only would I revamp the originally good idea of COMPSTAT but also I would stop the practice of having an officer's performance rated by the number of summonses issued and arrests he/she made. To rate an officer by how much more they can harass the public is unconscionable. Why bother with the motto "Courtesy, Professionalism and Respect" when an officer's performance isn't judged by how well he/she lives up to that image. Performance evaluations should reflect how well an officer handles himself with the public and his peers, not how much money he's collected for the city or how many people without bells on their bikes and no ID they can drag into the system.

Budget

Granted, I've never managed a budget so large but I can't imagine that the same simple economics that I use for my household and personal budget don't apply. The rule is you don't spend more than you have and try hard to bank as much as possible for unexpected expenses that might arise.

That, along with the savings I propose in education and health, and tightening all other spending, will allow us to cover essential services that benefit all while reducing the looming budget gap. Part of the essential services we all benefit from are the NYPD and FDNY. With deep cuts elsewhere we can give them the raises they deserve.

I would also immediately reopen the firehouses closed by Mayor Bloomberg.

Fines & Fees

There's nothing else to say about fines and fees except that they are suffocatingly high thanks to our current mayor. And "fee" is nothing but a nice word for "tax."

One of my very first acts would be to reduce parking fines and alleviate the fine and fee burdens on small business owners. Under Mayor Bloomberg small business has been the favorite can to kick. Small business is the backbone of our city. Not only should what I categorize as harassment of these owners stop but people should feel encouraged to open their own small business rather than be frightened off because the city is waiting around the corner to penalize them or add a new fee if they even sneeze.

Privatization

I'd privatize what we can. A competitive market drives companies to perform well, faster, and supply high quality services for less. Taxpayers would once again be able to hold onto more of their hard earned money if the city would get out of some businesses.

Governing Style

Politics = Career? No!

The majority of politicians get into politics as a career. Without it they'd have nothing else and will wheel and deal and do whatever it takes to keep their job, rather than perform their civic duty.

I, on the other hand, have already had my career. I don't need or

MEET THE CANDIDATES

want another one. My running for office has nothing to do with me and all to do with wanting to set our city back on its rightful track before it's damaged beyond repair and no longer the city we all loved. It's that or move. I don't want to move.

The Unlawmaker

You'd think that after all these years of lawmaking there'd be nothing much left to regulate. But in order to justify their existence lawmakers will propose and enact laws that are beyond common sense.

I will go through every legislative, administrative and penal code and strip out as many petty laws as I can find. I want to be known as the Unlawmaker.

Part of that process will mean redefining what "public health" means. For instance, your menu choices are not a matter of public health. It's YOUR body, ergo private health -- private health that the government has no business regulating. However, our currently appointed busybodies are busy surveying and monitoring your eating habits (among other private lifestyle choices) in order to decide what "public health" regulations are most desirable. They're studying you so that they can control you. That's their perversion of "public health" and I aim to put an end to that misuse of power.

Equal Protection

I will never let a poll determine policy. Civil rights are not a popularity contest. Polls are antithetical to equal protection. I do not care what the majority thinks because of the potential it has to tyrannize the minority. At one time in history the majority approved of segregation too. It's good evidence that might doesn't make right and that all

must be considered:

"The doctrine of 'majority rule equals freedom' is custom made to turn mobs of voters into spoiled children with a divine right to plunder the candy store. The only way to equate submission to majority-sanctioned decrees with individual freedom is to assume that individuals have no right to live in any way that displeases the majority." ("Freedom in Chains" by James Bovard)

Suggestion Box

I do not trust the so-called experts who generally promote their own agendas rather than good and effective policy. When seeking input I will first meet with those "in the trenches" who know better than anyone what the problems and situations are and what solutions might work best. That means I will invite teachers, police officers, firefighters, and all walks of civil servants to meet and discuss problem areas before I meet with experts. Only then will I see how the experts measure up to the workers and not the other way around.

Contact the campaign committee at:

silk@audreysilkfornycmayor.com

www.audreysilkfornycmayor.com/index.php

Audrey Silk for NYC Mayor '05

P.O. Box 341036

Brooklyn, NY 11234

Phone: (917) 888-9317

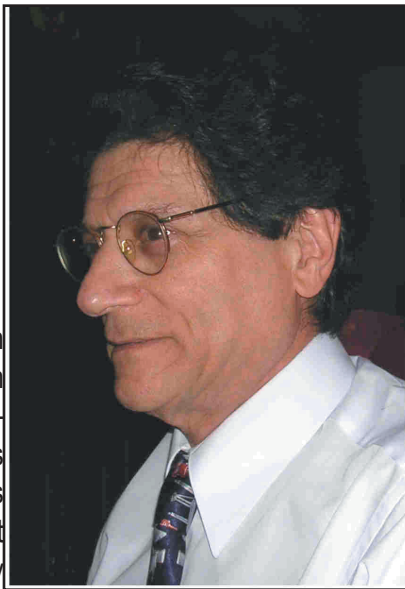
Gary Popkin

2005 Libertarian candidate for Brooklyn Borough President

Gary Popkin is retired from teaching 35 years at New York City College of Technology.

If elected I will win Brooklyn some freedom from the elite fancy-pants rulers across the river in fancy-pants Manhattan. We don't need nannies in City Hall telling us how to behave. We don't need mother hens giving us permission to smoke, drink, or dance. Brooklynites will not be treated like children! plan to sponsor debates to which I will invite the other three candidates for this office. I suspect that I will be the only one to show up. I also plan to appear on public-access cable-TV programs.

849 President Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 783-0592, (917) 763-9896
garypopkinforbrooklynbp@yahoo.com
<http://www.garypopkinforbrooklynbp.150m.com>



Gary Donoyan

2005 Libertarian candidate for Nassau County Executive

Gary Donoyan is an attorney in private practice, specializing in commercial litigation. He is a member of the state committee of the Libertarian Party of New York. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Church of Our Savior, Lutheran, Manhasset, and former Pack Committee Chair of Cub Scout Pack 101 of Manhasset, the largest cub scout pack in Nassau County.

"I will work to raise the awareness of the LP in Nassau County as its County Executive candidate. One issue I will use in my campaign is the special deal between the current incumbent, Tom Suozzi,



and one Mr. Wong, to develop some county-owned land near the Nassau Coliseum, including the building of a controversial office tower known as the Lighthouse. By not offering such land to the highest bidder, and instead designing a deal based on his own private considerations, Suozzi is likely causing the county government to lose money, and the citizens of Nassau County are being defrauded..

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Jim Lesczynski

Libertarian Party candidate for New York City Public Advocate

Jim Lesczynski is a marketing manager for a major global bank. His interests include hunting, fishing, poker, and playing with his daughters. Organization memberships: Chair of the Manhattan Libertarian Party, Secretary of the NYC chapter of the Shooters' Committee on Political Education (S.C.O.P.E.), member NRA, JPFO, ACLU, Citizens Lobbying Against Smoker Harassment (C.L.A.S.H.).

Here are the top issues that my campaign is advocating:

1. Eliminate the position of Public Advocate. Want to save the taxpayers of New York City millions of wasted tax dollars every year? Simply eliminate the position of Public Advocate, fire the staff, and board up the offices. The Public Advocate is a \$150,000-a-year do-nothing job that was designed to give empty suits like Mark Green and Betsy Gotbaum a place to grandstand. It's a vestige of the old city charter, evolved from the former position of City Council President. The Public Advocate used to be next in line to succeed the mayor, but in 2002 voters amended the charter to mandate a special election within 60 days of the mayor's incapacity. Now the Public Advocate is little more than a figurehead, a poor man's Queen of England. If I am elected Public Advocate, I promise to report to work just long enough to fire the staff and padlock the office.

2. Turn public housing into private homesteading. The biggest landlord in New York City is the City itself, and by all

accounts it does a lousy job. While the real estate boom spurs new investment in formerly decrepit private buildings and rejuvenates even the worst

neighborhoods, the stock of public housing continues to fester and stagnate. The taxpayers hate paying for this mess, but the government can't very well throw tens of thousands of families out on the street. . (They only do that with private housing, and it's usually when a basketball team wants to build a new taxpayer-funded arena or some important "public purpose" like that.) My solution is simple: We privatize all the public housing by turning each building over to the current tenants. Each occupant will be the owner/shareholder of his or her unit. Instead of paying rent to the city, they'll just pay maintenance. They can keep their units or sell them on the open market, but if they sell they'll never be given public housing again.

Meanwhile, the city gets out of the landlord business once and for all, and the taxpayers save tens of millions of dollars a year going forward.

3. Abolish matching funds. Although the original intent of the Campaign Finance Act may have been to provide fairer, more competitive elections, it's proved to be nothing more than a welfare program for politicians. In a municipality that has effectively become a one-party town, the program serves no other purpose than to entrench the majority party while marginalizing all opposition. In 2001, for example, when there was a full slate of citywide races, the Campaign Finance Program distributed \$42 million in taxpayer funds to candidates – \$40 million to Democrats and only \$2 million to Republicans. In the 2003 elections for City Council, the races were so uncompetitive – either despite of or because of the Campaign Finance Program – that not one incumbent lost, yet the taxpayers were still coerced into \$5 million of political speech, often for candidates who faced no opponent.

Visit: <http://www.leszczynski.com/>

ANTHONY FUTIA

FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR OF NORTH CASTLE



A life-long resident, a dedicated 38-year employee, my reputation in management, accountability with respective town budgets is impeccable; running the only department to take on additional responsibilities and reduce staffing. My attendance at town, planning and zoning board meetings the past forty years has given me insight on all town issues.

Taxes are going through the roof. The reality is that town government is the "tail that wags the dog," We need a strong, able, experienced person on the town board, a leader who will vote independently and is able to rein in the pork barrel spiraling spending practices. I will do that!

MEET THE CANDIDATES



T h o m a s Ruks

New York City
Council District #22

What is the most important issue in Council District 22 you would address if elected?

While there are many issues that face Astoria and New

York City, a priority should be addressing schools and education. Our children deserve full choice of opportunities. Our educational options should be accountable and responsive to parents. Parents could share local control with teachers and a principal's administration. A third of your tax dollars goes

towards the school system. Parents and neighbors should be able to use a credit of a third of their tax payments towards the school or tuition program of their choice. This would help determine where are the best qualified teachers, raise salaries, improve school resources, and improve student achievement and responsible citizenship.

What makes you the best candidate for this office?

This is a question that will be decided by the voters of Astoria, by our New York City neighbors.

I would be proud to serve with, if elected, John Clifton as Borough President, Ron Moore as Comptroller, and the offices of the Mayor and Council Speaker. All elected officials should care deeply about Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. This is our common heritage, whether a long time citizen or a recent immigrant coming home to America for the land of opportunity.

If the voters of Astoria want a candidate who is independent, who is responsive to each individual resident, who would defend your liberty and freedoms on civil and economic matters, then I hope to count on your vote and faith as the best candidate for this office.



Joseph Dobrian

2005 Libertarian
Candidate for Manhattan
Borough President

Joseph Dobrian is a freelance journalist and editor, who also writes essays, plays, poetry, and fiction. He came to the Libertarian Party when he realized that we have moved from being free citizens to being mere resources for the government, without rights, but

only privileges dispensed from above.

As Manhattan Borough President, I'll assist our Libertarian Mayor, Audrey Silk, in her furtherance of a freedom-based agenda. I'll fight to scale back or eliminate municipal taxes—all of them. I'll fight for gradual relaxation of zoning laws to encourage commercial initiative by the private sector

I'll work for repeal and/or non-enforcement of unreasonable restrictions on personal freedom, particularly anti-smoking and anti-dancing legislation. My appointees to the city's various boards and commissions will have strong Libertarian leanings and will support the concept of less government, more freedom.

I'll speak to neighborhood groups and to the general public to spread the Libertarian message, and hope to debate my opponents for Borough President

There are two kinds of people in the world: Those who just want to be left alone, and those who can't bear to leave you alone. Unfortunately it's that latter group that gets elected to public office and makes the rules for the rest of us. It's about time for those of us who just want to be left alone to finally stand up for ourselves—and for each other.

That's what our Libertarian campaign is about.

Joseph Dobrian

215 East 26th Street # 3

New York, NY 10010

212 779 1873

jdobrian@aol.com - www.josephdobrian.com

Other NYLP Candidates:

Andrew Gardner, 125 NYS Assembly District

Claudia Flanagan City Council District 2 (East Greenwich Village)

Alan Markopoulos City Council District 8 - (East Harlem)

Richard Bier City Council District 50 (Mid Staten Island)

Estelle Edwards Queens County Sheriff

Vince O'Neill, Nassau County Executive

Audrey Capozzi Brookhaven Town Council

Jim Harris, Suffolk County Executive

Geoff Snyder, North Tonawanda City Council (Niagara)

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Richard Bier

City Council,
District 50, Staten
Island and Bensonhurst,
Brooklyn,

- Attorney/
Analyst for Administration
for Children's Service,
New York City.

Primarily, I analyze
legislation and impacts
on fiscal issues for the
Agency. I also, prepare
several reports relating to
administrative expenses.

Memberships:

National Libertarian Party, Manhattan Libertarian Party

Critiques on Issues: I feel that the two major issues for most New Yorker's are jobs and education.

Since New York City is virtually a one-party town, the Democrats have never been a party that is going to assist the business community and job creation. In fact, their policies tend to stifle business development.

When I hear from Mayoral Candidate, C. Virginia Fields that she wants a Jobs Commissioner, I think about how Democrats view job creation through bigger government and how out of touch they are with the business community.

Education: I am hearing candidate Gifford Miller proposing smaller class sizes. Again, it is another more costly solution to a problem where there is little or no evidence that smaller class size results in better education. Moreover, when we seem to have a teaching shortage every year, it seems that centering your education platform on this goal seems counterproductive.

Working in government: I am concerned that problems that are already bad are going to get worse. What I have been seeing is cutbacks by the Federal government on spending for social services. Consequently, we need to also cut back on the State and City levels. Instead, with the present thinking that is exudes itself at City Hall, I am concerned that taxes will continually go up, businesses will continue to leave New York City, and our City will continue to

become more and more socialized.

My campaign will be highlighted by two major platforms:

Pro-Business Platform

A Free Market Approach to our City- I want to change the attitude of politicians that Tax Money does not belong to them and that if they are going to spend it they should have a good reason and their should be more concerns paid to tax payers.

Reduce Government spending- I have very practical ideas to reduce the size of government including elimination of matching funds, City Council slush funds, and local zoning boards, modernizing and automated many of the City processes, the various Head Counts for City Agencies need to be addressed and updated that will eliminate useless headcount and I would impose a cap on all overtime that will stop city workers from drastically increasing their pension amounts.

Tort Reform: limit the liability of lawsuits where the city is a defendant, cap jury awards, and remove cases from courts to other less costly alternative dispute resolution methods.

Open up Transportation: Options- reduce the cost of Staten Island bridges in non-rush hour travel, increase bus lanes between Staten Island and Manhattan, open up the market for transportation to commuter van alternatives and increase ferry options especially for private providers.

Education Reform:

I want to create a Teaching Position similar to an adjunct professor at a university.

These teaches would be part-time and would work either in addition to their job or a part-time job. They would teach one or maximum of two classes per day. They would have a low fringe benefit rate and would not be pension position and would be used for classes where it is difficult to find teachers (i.e. mathematics, and sciences, plus areas where we can give students specialized training in vocational fields, accounting, computer science, etc). These teachers would offer real world experience, they would be less costly, and they would have a certain expertise in their fields.

I would center my education reform on Parent Involvement which has been proven to be the key ingredient in good education and away from smaller class size which is more costly and less effective.

Eliminate many of the recently created Executive Positions and keep the money in the schools instead of in Administration.

Give a \$500 per child city tax credit for up to two kids for parents who send their kids to private school.

5-7 My campaign will be very grass roots oriented. I am going to try and get student involvement in my campaign and reach out to voters who are disenchant with both the republicans and democrats.

Jacob (Jak) Karako

2005 Libertarian candidate for New York
City Council D4

Jak Jacob Karako is a financial analyst. "I am running as a Democrat and as a Libertarian.

My campaign will stress fiscal stability, addressing fiscal problems like debt, deficit and waste.

As the incumbent is retiring and as my campaign budget has reached \$120K levels, I am poised to win this election, but I need all the support I can get: be it petitioning, handing out flyers or contributions.



24 Simmons Lane, Staten Island, NY
10314

Office (212)361-6581
Cell (917)554-6640
Home (718)554-6640
Campaign (212)613-8401 (voicemail/fax
number)
Website: www.richardbier.com

Jak Jacob Karako
917 575 1798
jak@electjak.org
www.ElectJak.org

NYLP CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESSES MADE BY THE NYLP CHAPTERS AND THEIR CONTACTS, AS REPORTED TO FREE NY BY THE CHAPTER'S THEMSELVES. SEE OTHER ACTIVITIES DETAILED IN ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION THAT MAY BE TOO VOLUMINOUS TO REPRODUCE HERE. IF YOU ARE (OR WILL BE) A LIBERTARIAN AND YOUR PART OF THE STATE IS NOT REPRESENTED YET, CALL (516)SOS-GOVT TO GET HELP TO SET ONE UP.

Capital District

1marketsquare.com/CapLP/Main.shtml

Albany and Vicinity

Jeff Russell, JRuss1776@aol.com

518-371-3641

The Capital District Libertarian Party meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in Albany. Meetings start at 6 PM.

Central New York

Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland

Kevin Delaney, kdzrd@aol.com

Please contact for info and meetings schedule

Western New York

(Includes Allegany, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus Counties)

John Wadsworth

Buffalo, NY

716-886-1919

Please contact John Wadsworth in Buffalo if you'd like to get involved.

Elmira-area Libertarians

Chemung and Steuben Counties

Andrew Gardner

Headboy77@stny.rr.com

Please join the Ithaca LP mailing list for now, but Andrew is planning on organizing this area separately.

Erie/Niagara Counties

Dr. John Wadsworth

716-886-1919

jlwads@concentric.net

John had been having meetings regularly. Please contact John to be put on his email list.

Our local members include or have included Jim Ostrowski who has written often for Lew Rockwell; Richard Fierly, who wrote a Libertarian Opera, and has published other items as well; Lance Pollock, who wrote a philosophical treatise about Libertarianism; and Ralph Raico who continues to publish historical articles and books about libertarian subjects.

Hudson Valley

(Includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties)

Don Silberger, DonSilberger@hvc.rr.com

845-255-8819

Peter Carl

845-679-8340

P.O. Box 66, Lake Hill, NY 12448

Gary Treistman, garyonthenet@yahoo.com

845-679-4770

POB 563, Bearsville, NY 12409

ny.lp.org/HudsonValley

Meets "religiously" on the first Tuesday of each month at

7:00 PM at the College Diner in New Paltz, one block east of the thruway exit on route 299. We love good conversation, and discuss/plan activist goals at our meetings.

The Hudson Valley chapter has established its own website at www.HudsonValleyLP.org. It was started to serve as a gateway for the local public to be introduced to libertarian thinking. Occasional advertisements in the press provide the URL. It will serve other purposes according to the on-going needs and wishes of the chapter.

Gary Treistman was elected Hudson Valley Libertarian Party Chapter Representative.

Ithaca LP in Tompkins County

Brian Sullivan

bsulliv1@twcny.rr.com

(607) 277-5085

ny.lp.org/Ithaca

Ithaca Libertarians will meet the third Friday of every month at Bool's Flower Shop, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca 5:15pm, and as needed. Join the Ithaca LP mailing list to see what's on the agenda.

Kings County (a.k.a. Brooklyn)

Gary Popkin, gary_popkin@hotmail.com

(718) 622-7035

Our meetings in Brooklyn are no longer held at the Park Cafe, and during the petitioning period they are irregular. The Temporary Chapter Chair urges people to call him for meeting and petitioning information.

Libertarian Party of Monroe County

www.RochesterLP.org

(Includes Genesee, Orleans, Wayne, Livingston, and Wayne counties)

Stephen Healey

Call 585-529-9354 or visit

www.rochesterLP.org and mnylp.nettsville.com

email: easterof1916@runbox.com

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of each month for strategy sessions. Call for location.

LP of Monroe County (Rochester)

On Feb 26, 2005 the LPMC held its Annual Convention.

Officers elected:

Chair: Al Dedicke

Treasurer: Joe Kirchner (reelected)

State Rep: Andrew E. Demers (reelected)

New York County (a.k.a. Manhattan)

Manhattan Libertarian Party

18 Greenwich Avenue, Box 127

New York, NY 10011

www.ManhattanLP.org

Thomas Ruks

info@manhattanlp.org

(212) 252-3449

Manhattan is now leading the state in terms of candidates run each year. Join the lpony_manhattan mailing list to start contributing your ideas about how to make it work. Stop in at their monthly meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, at Evergreen Restaurant, 10 East 38th Street. The first hour is a business meeting, and it will start PROMPTLY. The second hour is educational/social with dinner and guest speaker.

You'll also see many of us on the first Thursday of each month at the Junto lecture series, currently held at the Shelburne Murray Hill Hotel, in the Ballroom, Main Floor. 303 Lexington Avenue at 37th St., five blocks south of Grand Central Terminal. Subway: 4,5,6,7 to 42nd St.-Grand Central or B,D,F,N,Q,R,V,W to 34th St.-Herald Square.

The meetings get started around 7, and are subject to frequent interruptions from the host.

Nassau County Libertarian Party

Vincent O'Neill (516) 676-8029

ny.lp.org/Nassau/

The date of its monthly meeting occurs on the second Thursday of each month.

Meetings will continue to be

held at 8:00 p.m., at T.G.I. Friday's in Manhasset, 1445 Northern Boulevard at Shelter Rock Road. A reserved area to the left of the front door).

The Nassau LP has formed a new Yahoo Group, to communicate news about their events and other items of interest to LP members in Long Island. The Yahoo group will be the primary method of communication for local LP party business. Please take a moment to visit the group, and click to join today; the group are also open to any other individuals interested in the activities of those local parties.groups.Go to yahoo.com/group/Nassau_LP/ to join.

On 6/18/05, the following were elected to chapter offices:

Chair: Gary Donoyan

Vice Chair: Beads Land

Secretary: Andy MacAskill

Treasurer: William Stocker

North County Libertarians

Bonnie Scott

rabbit@cownow.com

Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Lewis, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties

North County Libertarians are spread out across a lot of land, but a newsletter has been started, and planning for 2005 is underway. Join our mailing list lpony_northern at YahooGroups.com.

Libertarian Party of Queens County

www.lpqc.org

ny.lp.org/LPQC

Frank Warren

lpqc@lpqc.org

info: (718) 707-1421

John Procida

proreal@nyc.rr.com

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, Queens (Subway: one block north of the Astoria Boulevard N train station, just west of 31st Street.)

Southern Tier Libertarians

Broome County

Michael Lurie

mlurie@stny.rr.com

607-797-7162

Binghamton, Vestal, Endicott: get in contact with Michael Lurie, a long-time libertarian who has previously arranged libertarian meetings at the Vestal Public Library.

Suffolk County

Barry Loberfeld, BLoberfe@suffolk.lib.ny.us
631-543-3510

Contact Barry for meeting times and location.

Note: a Suffolk MeetUp group has moved to www.suffolk.li/liberty/

The Suffolk LP has formed a new Yahoo Group, to communicate news about their events and other items of interest to LP members in Long Island. The Yahoo group will be the primary method of communication for local LP party business.

Please take a moment to visit the group, and click to join today; the group are also open to any other individuals interested in the activities of those local parties.groups.Go to yahoo.com/group/Suffolk_LP/ to join. Jim Harris will be the co-Owner of the Suffolk group, until a permanent Owner of that group is named.

Westchester County

Larry McElhinney

Larry McElhinney has stepped forward to help organize a group in Westchester! To find out about meeting times and locations, please see the Westchester Libertarians Meetup: libertarian.meetup.com/166/

College/School Chapters and Contacts:

A note from the LPNY College Outreach Coordinator:

If you work or go to school at a college or university in New York State and would like to be a designated contact for the Libertarian Party, I would appreciate your contacting me at the E-Mail address noted below.

Perhaps you are a professor who would be willing to serve as an Advisor to a College Libertarian chapter. Perhaps you are a student who is interested in leading a Libertarian Freedom Coalition, an alliance of students who agree with us on a broad range of issues.

Perhaps you are someone who would be willing to put up a notice seeking to identify students who would agree to serve as officers of a Libertarian Party organization at your school.

If you can help out in any capacity, please let me know.

Dr. Thomas Robert Stevens

LPNY College Outreach Coordinator

YRSpartan@aol.com

Ballad of the Complacent Proletariat

*Singing all along
with the Beatles and the Stones,
We never got it off on that . . . revolution stuff
What a drag, too many, . . .snags*

The following are confirmed contacts for high school, college and university chapters of the Libertarian Party in New York State:

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Timothy Woodcock, De4tw@aol.com or Woodcot@alfredstate.edu
Phone: 585-610-0149
AVOCA CENTRAL SCHOOL
Avoca, New York (Steuben County)
Contact: Luke Slayton, lts20stl@hotmail.com

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Marco Zappacosta (President), mlz2101@columbia.edu
Additional Contact: Horace Grant, horace.grant@aya.yale.edu or libertarians@columbia.edu
Website: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libertarians/>
Marco Zappacosta is a Psychology & Political Science major at Columbia College who plans to graduate in the year 2007.

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL LIBERTARIANS COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Marco Zappacosta, mlz2101@columbia.edu
Damian Najman asked to be removed as a contact for the Columbia Law School Libertarians even though he serves as Co-Chair of the group. It has been explained to me that there really are no officers and that this group was registered so that the Columbia College Libertarians could hold meetings at the Law School and that any law students who wish to attend meetings would go to the meetings of the Columbia College Libertarians. As a result, Marco Zappacosta has agreed to be the listed contact for this organization.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Horace Grant, horace.grant@aya.yale.edu
Horace Grant is studying United States History at Columbia University's GSAS and anticipates graduating in 2009.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Adam Scavone, as2491@columbia.edu
Adam is a graduate student in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. He has been focused on drug reform and has been active with Columbia's Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Contact: Curry Taylor, ctaylor12@twcny.rr.com
Additional Contact: Andrew Gardner, Headboy77@stny.rr.com
Curry Taylor is a Graduate Student of Condensed Matter Physics. The chapter in the process of obtaining formal recognition from the school. Andrew Gardner, who is listed as an additional contact, is an employee of Cornell University.

ELMIRA COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Bryan C. McCannon Assistant Professor of Economics, bcmccannon@yahoo.com Has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to any chapter forming at that school

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Contact: William Langley, w_a_langley@hotmail.com
Mr. Langley is a student at Fordham School of Law which is located at Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus. He plans to get a Libertarian group up and running at his school this Fall, 2005.

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Contact: Jonathan Salzinger, jsalzinger@hotmail.com
Cell Phone: 212-920-1010

ITHACA COLLEGE

Contact: Prof. Kim Gregson, kgregson@ithaca.edu
Phone: 607-274-7348

Rm 328 Park Hall Park School of Communications
Ithaca College Ithaca, NY 14850
I teach in the Radio-TV department.

MANHASSET SECONDARY SCHOOL

Contact: Leon Donoyan,

ldonoyan@optonline.net
Cell: 516-330-5563

TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Contact: Mackenzie Wilson Condon, mwc228@nyu.edu
Mackenzie Condon is an undergraduate student at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she is a theater major.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Dawn Pepin, dap6401@rit.edu
Dawn Pepin is currently trying to find other interested students in order to organize a chapter at her school.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Contact: Jeff Bennett, jeffiek@earthlink.net or jeffiek@excite.com or jeffiek9@yahoo.com

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Contact: Jeff Grizlo, Jgrizlo@aol.com
Jeff Grizlo will be a Freshman at St. Joseph's College in Fall, 2005. He will be majoring in the Social Sciences and his career goal is to become a teacher. Mr. Grizlo is committed to help organize a College Libertarians group at his school and currently serves as Executive Vice-President of the Libertarian Freedom Council.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY COLLEGE (UACL) LIBERTARIANS SUNY ALBANY

Contact: Nicholas Gallo (President), AntiCrombieDuck@yahoo.com or UACL@Albany.edu
Stephen Batza, Vice-President (stephenbatza@yahoo.com)
Jessica Parker, Secretary (JP371992@albany.edu)
Daniel Tomkins, Treasurer (dt964267@albany.edu)
UACL Website Address: <http://www.albany.edu/~uacl/>

The human race divides politically into those who want people to be controlled and those who have no such desire.

— Robert A. Heinlein

The University at Albany College Libertarians has been granted permanent recognition by the school's student association. Mr. Gallo is a Junior in the business program, who is minoring in history. He also serves as the National Student Organization Liaison for the Libertarian Freedom Council.

SUNY BINGHAMTON

Contact: Dylan Lainhart, masterdlx@stny.rr.com
Prof. Charles Goodman, cgoodman@binghamton.edu
(Assistant Professor of Philosophy)
Phone: 607) 777-2610

Dylan Lainhart entered SUNY Binghamton as a Freshman in September, 2004. After getting adjusted, he plans to organize a LP chapter at the school.

THE COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF BROCKPORT

SUNY BROCKPORT

Contact: Adam Chamberlain, kangol@novocon.net or
acha0102@brockport.edu
Phone: 585-395-4665
Junior at SUNY Brockport.

SUNY BUFFALO

Contact: Don Stillwagon, donstillwagon@yahoo.com or
dfs8@buffalo.edu
Cell: 1-845-399-6905
Dorm: 1-845-255-8819

Don Stillwagon is the President of a formally recognized College Libertarians organization that meets weekly and has over 10 active members. Mr. Stillwagon was also recently elected at the LPNY Convention in Syracuse as a voting At-Large Member of the State Committee.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF SUNY FREDONIA SUNY FREDONIA

Contact: Aaron Stadler (President), groovefeeling@hotmail.com

Aaron is a Music Performance Major. His applied instrument is guitar. His organization has been formally recognized by his school and regular meetings are held on campus.

GENESEO CAMPUS LIBERTARIANS

SUNY GENESEO

Contact: Craig Truglia, cat6@geneseo.edu
Craig plans to have his group recognized by the school in time for the first round of club fairs in the Fall, 2005. He has twenty interested members so far.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Contact: Prof. Don Silberger, donsilberger@hvc.rr.com
Prof. Silberger, who is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Director of the M.A. Program in Mathematics, has agreed to serve as Faculty Advisor to any college libertarian group which seeks to form at this school

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

Contact: Devin D. Gould, theuncensored@aol.com
Phone: 646-391-3264
Devin is a new contact identified at the LPNY State Convention held on April 24, 2004.

UR LIBERTARIANS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Contact: Eric Miller, em003m@mail.rochester.edu
CPU Box 276577 River Campus Rochester, NY 14627
Eric is a sophomore economics major. Eric is planning on holding meetings on campus every Wednesday.

I HATE EARTH DAY

by Jim Lesczynski

"I took a poo in the woods hunched over like an animal. It was awesome."

-Drew Barrymore

That gem from Ms. Barrymore is from the new MTV reality series "Trippin'" that has been heavily promoted this month leading up to Earth Day, which is today, in case you'd forgotten. I have not yet seen the program, but if it lives up to its hype, it could be MTV's greatest contribution to lowbrow (albeit unintentional) comedy since "Jackass."

The show supposedly shows how groovy it would be for Mother Earth if we all lived more like animals, or at least like savages, instead of civilized human beings. Drew, her Charlie's Angels co-start Cameron Diaz, and other leading Hollywood intellectuals jet-set around the world to various third-world outposts and spend a few days condescending to the natives with praise for their environmentally friendly (read impoverished) lifestyles, before hightailing it back to their mansions and servants.

Truth be told, I can appreciate the exhilaration of a nice squat in the wilderness as much as the next person. Nature has often called just after I've settled into my tree-stand in the morning on my annual fall deer hunt. Nothing quite gets your blood flowing like dropping your drawers and crouching over a snow mound at 5 in

the morning. In fact there are many things I love about leaving the city for a few days in the woods. One of the best things is there are no frigging environmentalists like Drew Barrymore for miles around. Plus I get to kill large mammals, as is my proper role in nature as a carnivore.

Earth Day is nothing more than a religious holiday, as far as I'm concerned, established by the zealots of the environmentalist religion. Normally I have nothing against religious holidays, although I am not religious myself. Some of these holidays are even quite admirable from a libertarian perspective, such as the Jewish celebration of Passover - the festival of freedom - which begins tomorrow evening at sunset. However, you never see Jews shoving Passover in your face. It's their religion, their holiday, and they frankly couldn't care less whether non-Jews observe it or not. Christians are more missionary and thus prone to promoting "the spirit of Christmas" and whatnot, but fortunately we have a First Amendment to keep that sort of thing from getting out of hand. Unfortunately, nobody remembers the First Amendment when it comes to environmentalist religious observances.

You can tell environmentalism is a religion because its tenets consist of a faith completely disconnected from objective reality, much less hard science. The environmentalists believe that the wetlands are rapidly disappearing, despite the fact that from 1997 to 2002, wetlands actually expanded by about 26,000 acres a

year on _private_ land. (What, the first instinct of every private landowner isn't to pave every inch of their property with concrete?) They believe that human activity is rapidly warming the earth and melting the polar icecaps, despite the fact that the earth's history is one of continuous warming and cooling trends, and despite the fact that arctic is actually colder today than it was in 1930.

Most of all, environmentalists believe as a matter of rigid dogma that one animal above all others is the mortal enemy of nature. Hint: That animal is not the spotted owl. It's the animal that walks on two legs and enjoys watching celebrity tweets on reality TV.

Since man is the enemy, I guess it's not surprising that "Trippin'" glorifies the third-world lifestyle, what with its high infant-mortality rates, chronic disease and malnutrition, and shortened life-expectancies. After spending a few days in a Chilean village with no electricity in one episode, Barrymore gushes to her MTV audience, "I aspire to be more like them." Quick, somebody get Drew the number for the southern California electric company so she can have the power shut off pronto.

In another episode, Diaz reportedly goes to Bhutan and ludi-

crously claims that its citizens "voluntarily" do without electricity in order to save "the endangered black neck crane." Uh-huh. The lack of electricity couldn't have anything to do with Bhutan being one of the poorest nations on earth. All the residents just got together and decided, "You know, it might be nice to have air-conditioning and unspoiled meat once in awhile, but the power plant would have to go right where that crane is nesting. Oh well. Pass me another root."

"My favorite thing about Bhutan is they measure their country's wealth, not based on dollar amount but on gross national happiness," Diaz said. One wonders just how much happiness there is in a country with an infant mortality rate of 103 per 1,000 births, according to the CIA Factbook, compared to 6.6 per 1,000 in the U.S. I can't imagine a lot of grins and giggles in a place where 1 out of every 10 babies has a funeral before they have a birthday party. On the other hand, at least the population's life expectancy is low at 53 years.

And the black neck crane is happy. That's the important thing.

American State Sovereignty, Cont'd from Page 5

national market for marijuana. If Congress can regulate this under the Commerce Clause, then it can regulate virtually anything—and the Federal Government is no longer one of limited and enumerated powers." . . .

"By holding that Congress may regulate activity that is neither interstate nor commerce under the Interstate Commerce Clause, the Court abandons any attempt to enforce the Constitution's limits on federal power." . . .

"To be sure, Congress declared that state policy would disrupt federal law enforcement. It believed the across-the-board ban essential to policing interstate drug trafficking. See 21 U.S.C. § 801. But as Justice O'Connor points out, Congress presented no evidence in support of its conclusions, which are not so much findings of fact as assertions of power. Congress cannot define the scope of its own power merely by declaring the necessity of its enactments."

Such commentary is laudable, but all the more maddening and exasperating, as it reveals that irrespective of these known Constitutional breaches, the Supreme Court will plunge forward eyes wide open, in the direction of political power over the nation's framers' ideals.

Constitutional Drift

Ever since the compact between the states (in reality birthing the child government that would eventually usurp them all), there was a nagging anticipatory fear that the voluntary Union entered into by the States would/could inadvertently lead to a loss of their own sovereignty..

Power has a habit of spontaneously accreting, and the founding fathers were well aware of this human tropism. During the formation of the US federal government, many of the States were highly skeptical of such a Union, and felt that it gave up sovereignty, against the best interests of the respective States.

Many thought it an unknowing deal with devil.

But assurances were made and properly bound to the parties by explicit wording in the very same document that authorized the Union. Those assurances made it clear State sovereignty would not, and could not be compromised; that within the United States geographical territories the federal government was to have precedential jurisdiction over the States in only two types of activities:

1. Particularly, only where all the states had ratified a specific and explicitly worded clause or Amendment to the US Constitution, yielding up their final authority to regulate or govern some given thing within their sovereign boundaries, such as the recognition of personal civil rights.

* and *

2. Implicitly where direct trade and commerce occurs between the states.

That was the understanding of the compact, and that became the wording of the Constitution. It could not have been any clearer or unambiguous.

But it seems that no assurances, understandings, written compacts or solemn oaths can get in the way of sheer power speculation.

When the Raich case came before the court, the court was presented with the opportunity to return back to sanity the framers' intended tiered structure of governmental power in America, as detailed in the Constitution, and cull back the overextending reach of the federal government; many had hoped beyond hope that court would continue its recent line of decisions affirming the demarcation of federal authority over intrastate activities, see *United States v. Lopez* (guns in schools), *United States v. Morrison* (domestic violence), *Jones v. United States* (intrastate arson).

But when the highly charged, almost religious, issue of drug use is raised, ideals faltered.

Instead of doing the right thing, and receiving guidance from the controlling document itself, the Constitution, political expedience ruled supreme, and the court justified its ruling by deferring to (instead of

overruling) an equally onerous and legally heretical precedent set back in 1942, see *Wickard v. Filburn* 317 U.S. 111, the case which was in fact the gravamen of all modern federal intrastate encroachments, and the seminal end to state sovereignty.

Likewise, the same specious logic was used in what were conceptually similar facts.

In *Wickard* the U.S. Government prosecuted an Ohio wheat farmer who had decided to grow an additional 11.9 acres of wheat, on his own land for his own consumption, against Governmental edict.

The controversy was appealed to the Supreme Court on the grounds that what the farmer did on his own property, and for his own intrastate purposes, was outside the federal government's power to penalize.

Utilizing a wartime socialist mentality, the legacy of which we are saddled with today, the court accepted the federal government's argument that because the wheat a farmer grew for his own consumption reduced the amount that he himself would otherwise be obliged to buy, such production affected local commerce, which in turn affected regional, and ultimately interstate commerce in that commodity-- thus making his decision to plant his own wheat something over which the feds had lawful authority. However absurd and indefensible this sounds, it is the regime under which all but the very oldest have lived for our entire lives.

(It can be seen, this sorry state of affairs was incrementally achieved, first by the declarification of the simple constitutional edict that federal jurisdiction extends only to "interstate commerce", into the interpretation that federal jurisdiction extends to activities that "affects interstate commerce"; from there it was an easy step to interpret it as "possibly could affect interstate commerce", which is the test that the Supreme Court applies now.)

You Can Live With This

The Supreme Court, its majority possibly feeling the visceral distaste of their unpalatable ruling, disgorged conciliatory dicta onto the dying patients/defendants, and opined the obvious - that Congress is free to provide exceptions to the federal regulatory scheme, and thus grant its beneficence upon the class of defendants adversely affected by its ruling.

(It should be noted, if it is Congress that must affirm what used to be inalienable rights, then rights they are no more, but rather judicially sanctioned entitlements attained only by the haughty graces of, and at the discretionary pleasure, of the federal Congress.)

Awkwardly trying to further soften the blow, they offered another scenario - that State authorities might choose not to enforce the federal laws.

Given this curious suggestion, bordering on sedition, it actually could go one step further: state authorities could actively oppose the federal enforcement and protect its citizens from federal laws that attenuate its citizens civil rights.

Perhaps, if only there was the intestinal fortitude, and political will power to recognize the invasion taking place before their eyes, and to do something about it. (It is a real turn around when the state governments wish to give more rights to its citizens, that the federal government wants to take away.)

But people are lax, busy with their day-to-day lives, and apathetic to invasions they don't see happening right beneath their eyes, much like a homeowner might ignore a termite infestation undermining his house - as long as he doesn't see it happening, everything is just fine - that is of course until its too late to do anything about it.

Without visceral outrage, and without a vocal citizenry to express that outrage, expedience will rule the day, and political inertia will carry forward the incremental erosion of apportioned rights and sovereignties - first it is wrested from the individual, and then it will be taken from all governmental subdivisions. All consolidated into a central authority, which will then be in a position to do as it pleases, unmoored by any allegiances, duties or prior written charters to the people. In other words, unchecked, self-perpetuating, governmental power.

Conclusion

Another blow undermining federalism has been struck, and along with it another set of American civil rights have been subsumed into the greater hive.

This is confirmed all the more by the recent ruling on Eminent Domain, handed down by the Court, but too late to elaborate on at length here. Suffice to say, the Court has authorized the governmental seizure of private property for the purpose of selling it to other private interests, encouraging a practice made infamous in another national socialist regime of the 1930's.

As local control and self-governance are consolidated into the socialist central authority, the American Politburo careers forward, aided, abetted and legitimized by the federal courts.

And as the US Supreme court entertains and approves of each new Constitutional heresy put before it, it becomes less of the independent arbitrator it was chartered to be, and more of an active interested participant in the trilateral monolith known as the federal government.

As Thomas Jefferson presciently observed over 170 years ago

"...the Federal Judiciary; an irresponsible body (for impeachment is scarcely a scare-crow), working like gravity by night and by day, gaining a little to-day and a little tomorrow, and advancing its noiseless step like a thief, over the field of jurisdiction, until all shall be usurped from the States, and the government of all be consolidated into one. ... when all government ... in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the centre of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated."

Thomas Jefferson, 1821

Well Mr. Jefferson, welcome to the ~~United States~~
United State of America.

Article by Gary Treistman



**New York State
Libertarian Party
State Committee
P.O. Box 728
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Kiss me.



NYLP Chair, John Clifton has announced the Goal50K Project earlier in this issue. He told you how we are getting excited about it. He reported we are gearing up for it. He reminded you that he needs your help to make it a success.

I also invite you to join John Clifton, and others on the State Committee to make this happen. If you are in a local chapter, encourage your chapter to actively take part in this project. If you are in a part of the state that has no chapter, you can also actively take part in making Goal50K a success.

Think of ways to reach people and organizations and point them to our message. Tell them to resist the prevailing trend to impose choices valued by some at the expense of others with new laws. (www.ny.lp.org/resist)

As your State Committee Treasurer, I'm starting an effort to make it easy for you to support Goal50K financially. Yes, I ask you for money. What will this money be used for? It will purchase advertising. It will pay for speakers to travel the state with our message. It may help fund classes on how to reach people or train our local candidates in effective campaigning. Hopefully it will be used to help fund chapter activities to do outreach and expand membership. All of these are required to convince at least 50,000 voters to cast their ballots for our candidate for Governor in 2006. Once that happens, this resistance will be noticed by the media. It will make us politically visible. People will seek to find out more about us and our ideas. More people will register Libertarian. We will begin to make a difference.

Until we have reached our goal of \$50K for this project, I must continue to seek help. This should not be all that hard. If 1000 people each gave just \$50 that financial goal would be accomplished and we could all be proud of the result. Please consider that \$50 figure to be a minimum contribution to this project. I encourage those of you who can give more to do so. That way we will reach the goal sooner and I can stop asking you for money. Instead I will be able to thank your for funding Goal50K.

Werner Hetzner
LPNY Treasurer

Please make check/money order (no corporate checks please) payable to:
Libertarian Party of New York
Send this form and payment to:
Libertarian Party of New York
P.O. Box 728
Bellport, NY 11713

Cut, complete and mail:

This form can also be printed from www.ny.lp.org/Goal50K/funding

Yes! I think Goal50K is worth funding.

I'm sending you a check for \$ _____ and/or I pledge to send you \$ _____ each month until November 2006.

You can also use our website to make your contribution at www.ny.lp.org/donate/

Click&Pledge™ deducts a fee of about 4% from your contribution for this service.

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